

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL MILAN
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IT, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE PROVINCE PROPOSES SPECIAL RELATION-
SHIP WITH LOMBARDY

REF: MILAN 77

1. WE WERE INTERESTED TO LEARN OF TETE PROVINCE'S
APPROACH TO LOMBARDY. IT IS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF
THIS KIND ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE HEARD. THE APPARENT
INVOLVEMENT OF MARCELLINO DOS SANTOS WOULD INDICATE
HIGH-LEVEL FRELIMO (FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF MOZAMBIQUE)
BACKING FOR THIS PROPOSAL.

2. IN DISCUSSING THE MOZAMBIKAN INITIATIVE WITH REGION
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PRESIDENT GOLFARI, YOU MAY DRAW FROM THE FOLLOWING
POINTS:

A) ALTHOUGH MOZAMBIQUE IS A ONE-PARTY "MARXIST-LENINIST"
STATE AND CONSIDERS COMMUNIST NATIONS ITS "NATURAL
ALLIES," IT HAS FOLLOWED A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT IN
WORLD AFFAIRS;

B) IN RECENT MONTHS, MOZAMBIQUE HAS BEEN UNDERTAKING AN EFFORT TO EXPAND SIGNIFICANTLY ITS CONTACTS WITH THE WEST.

PRESIDENT CARTER MET WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL IN NEW YORK THIS PAST OCTOBER. THE MOZAMBIKAN LEADER LATER STATED PUBLICLY THAT THE DISCUSSION HAD BEEN "CORDIAL AND FRANK" AND MADE CLEAR HIS DESIRE FOR ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH THE US.

C) CONCRETE SIGNS OF THE CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WEST INCLUDE THE MOZAMBIKAN GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVE INTEREST IN ATTRACTING US (AND, PRESUMABLY, OTHER WESTERN) INVESTMENT AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT WESTERN NEWSMEN TO TRAVEL AROUND MOZAMBIQUE FREELY.

D) WHILE THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO ESTABLISH A TETE-LOMBARDY RELATIONSHIP IS ONE FOR ITALIANS TO MAKE, WE BELIEVE THAT EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE OF THE SORT MOZAMBIKANS ARE PROPOSING WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN WESTERN LINKS WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND ALSO ASSIST THAT COUNTRY IN ITS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

3. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO LEARN FROM GOLFARI IN WHAT MANNER THE TETE GOVERNOR AND DOS SANTOS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY WERE SEEKING A "COUNTERWEIGHT" TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXTENSIVE BLOC PRESENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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